

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01 FEA-02 SCI-06

COME-00 INT-08 CIEP-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AF-10

DRC-01 /191 W

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R 031729Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1968

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF

SUBJECT: GOF PERCEPTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ONE MONTH PRIOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST, QUAI D'ORSAY SEES ARAFAT SETTling FOR SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE LIMITED TO WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP; CONTINUING HARD LINE INFLEXIBILITY ON PART OF SYRIANS, AND POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO BY SAUDIS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI MIDDLE EAST DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROUILLON AUGUST 30 BRIEFED EMBOFF ON CURRENT GOF ATTITUDES CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAS BEEN MAKING PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR TWO SEPARATE VISITS, FIRST TO CAIRO, AMMAN AND BEIRUT APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER
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16-22 AND THEN TEL AVIV (WITH "PRIVATE" VISIT TO

JERUSALEM) OCTOBER 24-26. ROUILLON EMPHASIZED THESE PLANS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION.

3. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY REPLYING TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, ROUILLON INDICATED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN SAUVAGNARGUES AND PLO LEADER ARAFAT WAS A POSSIBILITY IN THE COURSE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISITS TO THE ARAB WORLD. ROUILLON UNDERSTANDS THAT ARAFAT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD CREATE A STATE OF PALESTINE LIMITED TO WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. ROUILLON SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD THUS IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGE ISRAEL'S DE-FACTO EXISTENCE IN THE REMAINDER OF THE FORMER PALESTINIAN PROTECTORATE; ROUILLON SAW NO CHANCE OF THIS ACCEPTANCE BEING EXPLICIT BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS ALREADY A MAJOR STEP FORWARD TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE. HE SAID THAT PLO IS NOW PRESSING ALL ARAB STATES TO AGREE AT THE FORTHCOMING ARAB SUMMIT THAT PLO MUST BE ADMITTED TO GENEVA CONFERENCE AS INDEPENDENT PARTICIPANT SPEAKING IN NAME OF ALL PALESTINIANS (EXCEPT THOSE OF EAST BANK JORDAN).

4. ROUILLON PARTICIPATED WITH SAUVAGNARGUES IN TALKS DURING RECENT VISIT OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. THEY HAD NOT FOUND KHADDAM TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY FLEXIBLE ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR PROLONGING SYRIA/ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. KHADDAM DID NOT SEEM PREPARED TO CONTINUE ON "STEP-BY-STEP" COURSE' ALTHOUGH HE WAS INTERESTED IN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RESOLUTION 242 WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE SPECIFIED STAGES AND TIMETABLE. ROUILLON CHARACTERIZED KHADDAM AS TAKING CLASSIC POSITION THAT THERE COULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS ISRAEL FORMALLY AGREES TO IMPLEMENT SC RESOLUTIONS' INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL. SPECIFICALLY, KHADDAM SHOWED NO INTEREST IN NEW ISRAEL STEPS SUCH AS FUTURE PARTIAL PULL-BACK AS CONDITION FOR DISENGAGEMENT RENEWAL. IN FACT, ROUILLON TERMED HIS POSITION ON DISENGAGEMENT RENEWAL AS "MENACING" SINCE KHADDAM HAD SPOKEN OF THIS PROBLEM AS A DIFFICULT ONE WHICH MIGHT WELL NOT BE SURMOUNTED UNLESS ISRAEL SHOWED GOOD FAITH REGARDING OVERALL SOLUTION.

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5. ROUILLON SAID THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN JIDDA FEARS THAT FAYSAL IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO, DESPITE THE MORE HELPFUL POSITION OF OIL MINISTER YAMANI. STONE

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